

CALCULATING INTERSECTION NUMBERS ON MODULI SPACES OF CURVES

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ABSTRACT. We discuss an algorithm for calculating intersection numbers for tautological classes on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, and use this to compute the coefficients of a genus 4 tautological relation in cohomology whose existence follows directly from the work of Bergström-Tommasi. We end with the ranks of the graded parts of the Gorenstein quotients of the tautological rings $R^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$, as well as of the related rings $R^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}})$ and $R^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}})$, for low values of g and n .

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ denote the moduli space of Deligne-Mumford stable curves of genus g with n labeled points. The tautological rings $R^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ comprise the smallest system of \mathbb{Q} -subalgebras of the Chow rings $A^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ that is closed under the natural forgetful and gluing morphisms. These rings include the cotangent classes ψ_i , the Mumford-Morita-Miller classes κ_i , the Chern classes λ_i of the Hodge bundle, and topologically-defined boundary classes (for definitions and properties, see [AC, HKK⁺, M]).

Programs for computing top intersection numbers among ψ , κ , and λ classes have been implemented in both Maple and Macaulay2 [F3, SY]. However, neither of these handle boundary classes in a satisfactory manner. An algorithm for doing so is described below in terms of decorated stable graphs. This is based on a formula given a paper by Graber and Pandharipande ([GP, §A.1]) and has been implemented in Maple. This program has been used to calculate the ranks of the Gorenstein quotients of various tautological rings of moduli spaces of curves $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$, and $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$ for low values of g and n , where $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$ denote the locus of curves in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ “of compact type,” whose dual graph is a tree, and $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$ denotes the

locus of curves in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ “with rational tails,” with one component of genus g . According to well-known conjectures ([F2, P]), the tautological rings of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$ are Gorenstein and thus equal to their Gorenstein quotients.

2. STABLE GRAPHS

Graber and Pandharipande were the first to write down an explicit multiplication formula for boundary classes in $R^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ ([GP, §A.1]); we begin by adapting their notation. By a graph, we mean a connected and undirected graph with allowed half-edges, multiple edges, and self-edges. In other words, it is a sextuple

$$(V, H, E, N, g: V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, i: H \rightarrow H)$$

which satisfies the properties:

- (1) V is a finite set of vertices, with a genus function $g: V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.
- (2) H is a finite set of half-edges, and i is an involution with labeled fixed points N .
- (3) E is the set of nontrivial orbits of i and (V, E) defines a connected graph.

To avoid ambiguity, we will sometimes use subscripts (V_G, H_G, \dots, i_G) when referring to a specific graph G . A graph is called *stable* if all vertices satisfy the stability condition $2g(v) - 2 + n(v) > 0$, where $n: V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ is the function which assigns a vertex v to the total number of half edges in H incident to it. The total genus of a graph G is

$$\begin{aligned} g(G) &:= \sum_{v \in V} g(v) + h^1(G) \\ &= \sum_{v \in V} g(v) + |E| - |V| + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Any pointed stable curve C has an associated stable graph, called the *dual graph* of C , that encodes its topological data. The dual graph is constructed with the following rules: irreducible components of C correspond to vertices V , nodes of C correspond to edges E , and labeled marked points correspond to labeled half-edges N . Conversely, given any stable graph G , we define σ_G to be the closure of the locus of curves in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(G), |N|}$ whose dual graph is G . Another way to define σ_G is using the composition of gluing morphisms:

$$(1) \quad \iota_G: \prod_{v \in V} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g(v), n(v)} \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n},$$

where $(g, n) = (g(G), |N|)$, and points on curves are identified in the manner prescribed by the graph G ([GP, Proposition 8]). The boundary stratum σ_G is then equal to

$$(2) \quad \sigma_G := \text{im}(\iota_G)$$

The loci of curves with a fixed dual graph form the stratification of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ by topological type.

A *specialization* of a graph G is a graph H which is obtained by replacing each vertex of G with a graph of genus $g(v)$ with $n(v)$ half edges that are identified with the half edges incident to v . This corresponds roughly to specialization of curves.

Definition 1. A G -structure on A is an identification of a specialization of G with A . In other words, it is a triple

$$(\alpha: V_A \twoheadrightarrow V_G, \beta: H_G \hookrightarrow H_A, \gamma: H_A \setminus \text{im}(\beta) \rightarrow V_G)$$

which satisfies:

- (1) The map β commutes with involution ($\beta \circ \iota_G = \iota_A \circ \beta$) and induces an isomorphism between the fixed points $N_G \xrightarrow{\sim} N_A$,
- (2) Any half-edge $h \in \text{im}(\beta)$ is incident to v if and only if $\beta^{-1}(h)$ is incident to $\alpha(v)$
- (3) If $h \in H_A \setminus \text{im}(\beta)$ is incident to v , then $\gamma(h) = \alpha(v)$.
- (4) If $v \in V_G$, then the preimage $(\alpha^{-1}(v), \gamma^{-1}(v)/\iota_A)$ is a connected graph of genus $g(v)$.

Example 1. There can be many G -structures on the same graph A . Let G and A be the graphs denoted in the pictures below

$$G = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ 2 \end{array} \quad A = \begin{array}{c} 1 \text{---} \text{---} 2 \end{array}$$

There are four G -structures on A that respect the labels of the half-edges. The map β identifies one of the two edges of A with the edge of G in one of two different ways.

A (G, H) -graph is a graph A which has both a G -structure and an H -structure, called a (G, H) -structure. Two (G, H) -structures on a graph A are considered isomorphic if they differ by an automorphism of A . If A has a (G, H) -structure and $e = (h_1, h_2)$ is an edge of A , then we say e is a *common (G, H) -edge* if it is identified with both an edge of G and with an edge of H , i.e., if

$$(3) \quad h_1, h_2 \in \beta(H_G) \cap \beta(H_H) \subseteq H_A.$$

A (G, H) -graph A is called *generic* if every edge of A is identified with an edge of G , an edge of H , or both, i.e. if

$$(4) \quad \beta(H_G) \cup \beta(H_H) = H_A.$$

The set of all generic (G, H) -structures is denoted $\Gamma(G, H)$.

Example 2. Let A and G be the same graphs as in Example 1, and set $H = G$. There are sixteen (G, H) -structures on A . Eight of them are generic. They are isomorphic in pairs; i.e., up to an automorphism of A there are only eight different (G, H) -structures, four of which are generic.



FIGURE 1. A 2-pointed curve of genus 6 and its dual decorated graph

3. DECORATED GRAPHS

A *decorated stable graph* G is a stable graph \overline{G} with the additional data of a monomial

$$(5) \quad \theta_v = \prod_{i=1}^{n(v)} \psi_i^{e_i} \prod_{j=1}^m \kappa_j^{f_j}$$

chosen for each vertex v . Define σ_G to be the tautological class

$$(6) \quad \sigma_G := \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(G)|} \iota_{\overline{G}*} \left(\prod_{v \in V} \theta_v \right).$$

Here \overline{G} denotes the underlying stable graph of G without any vertex decorations.

Remark 1. The cotangent ψ -classes are indexed by the half-edges incident to a vertex, so we denote them by adding arrowheads to the appropriate half-edge (Figure 1).

Let $\Sigma^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ denote the graded vector space of decorated genus g stable graphs with n labeled half-edges, with the grading by codimension

$$(7) \quad \text{codim}(G) := |E_G| + \sum_{v \in V} \text{codim}(\theta_v),$$

where

$$(8) \quad \text{codim} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{e_i} \prod_{j=1}^m \kappa_j^{f_j} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n e_i + \sum_{j=1}^m j f_j.$$

For any decorated graph A , and vertex $v \in V_A$, let $\kappa_{a,v} \cdot A$ denote the graph where the decoration θ_v is replaced with $\kappa_a \theta_v$, with associative and distributive rules

$$(9) \quad (\kappa_{a,v} \kappa_{a',v}) \cdot A = \kappa_{a,v} \cdot (\kappa_{a',v} \cdot A),$$

$$(10) \quad (\kappa_{a,v} + \kappa_{a',v}) \cdot A = \kappa_{a,v} \cdot A + \kappa_{a',v} \cdot A.$$

Similarly, if h is any half-edge of A , then we let $\psi_h \cdot A$ denote the graph A where the half-edge h is decorated with an additional arrowhead.

Example 3. The pullback of the class κ_a to a boundary stratum B is the sum of strata

$$(11) \quad \kappa_a \sigma_A = \sum_{v \in V(A)} \sigma_{\kappa_a, v \cdot A}.$$

Let G be a decorated graph, and let A be an undecorated graph with a \overline{G} -structure (α, β, γ) . Let v be a vertex in G decorated with the monomial $\theta_v := \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i^{e_i} \prod_{j=1}^m \kappa_j^{f_j}$, and set

$$(12) \quad f_A(G, v) = \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_{\beta(i)}^{e_i} \prod_{j=1}^m \left(\sum_{w \in \alpha^{-1}(v)} \kappa_{j,w} \right)^{f_j},$$

$$(13) \quad F_A(G, H) = \sum_{v \in V_G} f_A(G, v) \sum_{v \in V_H} f_A(H, v) \prod_{e=(h_1, h_2)} (-\psi_{h_1} - \psi_{h_2}).$$

The last product is taken over all common $(\overline{G}, \overline{H})$ -edges of A .

We define multiplication in $\Sigma^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ with the formula

$$(14) \quad G \cdot H := \sum_{A \in \Gamma(\overline{G}, \overline{H})} \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(A)|} F_A(G, H) \cdot A,$$

thus turning Σ^* into a graded algebra.

Proposition 1. *There is a natural surjective map of rings*

$$(15) \quad \Phi: \Sigma^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}) \rightarrow R^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$$

which sends a decorated dual graph to its associated stratum class.

Proof. This is a map from [GP, Formula 11], and surjectivity follows from [GP, Proposition 11]. \square

Example 4. We calculate the product of σ_G and σ_H , where G and H are the following decorated stable graphs in $\Sigma^3(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{4,0})$ and $\Sigma^6(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{4,0})$. Note that vertices of genus 0 are denoted by dots.

$$G = \text{graph with two loops on a vertex labeled } \kappa_2 \quad H = \text{graph with two loops on a vertex and a vertex labeled } \textcircled{2}$$

There are two generic $(\overline{G}, \overline{H})$ -graphs:

$$A = \text{graph with two loops on a vertex and a vertex labeled } \textcircled{2} \quad B = \text{graph with two loops on a vertex and a vertex labeled } \textcircled{1}$$

Graph A has four \overline{G} -structures and eight \overline{H} -structures, a total of 32 $(\overline{G}, \overline{H})$ -structures, each of which has exactly one common edge. The order of the automorphism group of A is eight. Graph B has sixteen generic $(\overline{G}, \overline{H})$ -structure with no common edges. The order of the automorphism group of B is sixteen.

According to formula (14), the product $F_A(G, H) \cdot A$ is the sum of eight graphs

$$(16) \quad F_A(G, H) \cdot A := - \begin{array}{c} \text{graph 1} \\ \text{graph 2} \\ \text{graph 3} \\ \text{graph 4} \\ \text{graph 5} \\ \text{graph 6} \\ \text{graph 7} \\ \text{graph 8} \end{array}$$

The eight graphs are arranged in two rows of four. Each graph consists of a central vertex connected to two other vertices, which are then connected to a circle labeled '2'. The graphs differ in the placement of loops and the value of κ_2 .

all of which lie in the kernel of Φ .

The product $F_B(G, H) \cdot B$ is the sum of four graphs

$$(17) \quad F_B(G, H) \cdot B := \begin{array}{c} \text{graph 1} \\ \text{graph 2} \\ \text{graph 3} \\ \text{graph 4} \end{array}$$

The four graphs are arranged in a single row. Each graph consists of a central vertex connected to two other vertices, which are then connected to a circle labeled '1'. The graphs differ in the placement of loops and the value of κ_2 .

Only the last term above does not lie in the kernel of Φ , and so

$$(18) \quad \sigma_G \cdot \sigma_H = \Phi(G \cdot H) = \Phi \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 4} \end{array} \right) = \int_{\mathcal{M}_{1,3}} \psi_1 \kappa_2 = \frac{1}{8}.$$

4. CURVES OF COMPACT TYPE, GENUS 4 AND 5

Recall from §1 that $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$ denotes the locus of curves in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ of compact type and $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$ denotes the locus of curves in $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$ with rational tails. Define the tautological rings $R^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}})$ and $R^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}})$ by restriction. Conjecturally, the rings $R^*(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$, respectively $R^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}})$ and $R^*(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}})$ are Gorenstein with top degree $3g - 3 + n$, respectively $2g - 3 + n$ and $g - 2 + n$ ([AC, HKK⁺, M]). The one-dimensionality of the top degrees are known in all cases ([L, F2, GV]), with the isomorphism given by evaluation

$$(19) \quad \alpha \mapsto \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \alpha,$$

in the case of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, and using the evaluation classes λ_g and $\lambda_g \lambda_{g-1}$ in the cases of $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$,

$$(20) \quad R^{2g-3+n}(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}) \cong \mathbb{Q} \quad R^{g-2+n}(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}) \cong \mathbb{Q}$$

$$(21) \quad \alpha \mapsto \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \alpha \lambda_g \quad \alpha \mapsto \int_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}} \alpha \lambda_g \lambda_{g-1}.$$

In this section we show that $R^*(\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{ct}})$ is in fact Gorenstein, and discuss the structure of $R^*(\mathcal{M}_5^{\text{ct}})$.

By [FP, Proposition 2], any tautological decoration θ_v of sufficiently high codimension lies on the tautological ring of the boundary $R^*(\partial \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$, defined to be the subring of $A^*(\partial \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ generated by pushforwards of tautological classes on boundary divisors via gluing morphisms. As a result, the

map Φ defined in Proposition 1 remains surjective when restricted to the graphs whose vertex decorations satisfy

$$(22) \quad \text{codim}(\theta_v) < g(v) + \delta_{0g(v)} - \delta_{0n(v)},$$

and the tautological restriction sequence

$$(23) \quad R^{k-1}(\partial \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}) \longrightarrow R^k(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}) \longrightarrow R^k(\mathcal{M}_{g,n}) \longrightarrow 0$$

is exact in degrees $k \geq g(v) + \delta_{0g(v)} - \delta_{0n(v)}$. Note that since $A^k(\partial \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}) = R^k(\partial \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n})$ when $k = 0, 1$, the restriction sequence is also exact when $k = 1, 2$. The exactness of this sequence for intermediate values remains unknown ([FP, Conjecture 2]).

There are 30 graphs of genus 4 whose decorations satisfy inequality (22). Five relations among the thirty strata represented by these graphs can be seen as follows: the relation $\kappa_1 = 0$ on \mathcal{M}_2 pulls back to $\kappa_1 - \psi_1 = 0$ on $\mathcal{M}_{2,1}$. By exactness of the restriction sequence (23) when $k = 1$, this extends to a relation on $\mathcal{M}_{2,1}$,

$$(24) \quad \kappa_1 - \psi_1 = \frac{7}{5} \delta_G$$

where G is the graph

$$(25) \quad G = \overset{1}{\textcircled{1}} - \textcircled{1}$$

This relation, when pushed forward via various gluing morphisms to relations on $\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{ct}}$, allows one to express the strata corresponding to the following five graphs in terms of the remaining twenty-five.

$$(26) \quad \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} - \textcircled{2} \quad \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} - \textcircled{2} \quad \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} - \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} \quad \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} - \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{1} \quad \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} - \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{1}$$

Similarly, relation (24) can be pulled back to $\mathcal{M}_{2,2}^{\text{ct}}$ and then pushed forward via gluing morphisms, allowing us to eliminate one more graph:

$$(27) \quad \textcircled{1} - \overset{\kappa_1}{\textcircled{2}} - \textcircled{1}$$

In a similar manner we get three additional relations from $R^2(\mathcal{M}_{3,1})$, which is one-dimensional. (This is the socle statement of Faber's conjecture, which is proved in [FP, Proposition 3] and [GV, §5.8].) Since (23) is exact when $k = 2$, the relations $\psi_1 \kappa_1 = 5\psi_1^2$, $\kappa_2 = \psi_1^2$, and $\kappa_1^2 = 9\psi_1^2$ extend to relations on $\mathcal{M}_{3,1}^{\text{ct}}$

$$(28)$$

$$\psi_1 \kappa_1 = 5\psi_1^2 + \frac{16}{21} \sigma_{G_1} + \frac{5}{7} \sigma_{G_2} + \frac{40}{21} \sigma_{G_3} - \frac{61}{21} \sigma_{G_4} + \frac{4}{35} \sigma_{G_5} - \frac{16}{35} \sigma_{G_6}$$

$$(29) \quad \kappa_2 = \psi_1^2 + \frac{41}{21} \sigma_{G_1} + \frac{41}{21} \sigma_{G_3} - \frac{41}{21} \sigma_{G_4} - \frac{4}{35} \sigma_{G_5} - \frac{8}{35} \sigma_{G_6}$$

$$(30) \quad \kappa_1^2 = 9\psi_1^2 + \frac{299}{21} \sigma_{G_1} + \frac{10}{7} \sigma_{G_2} + \frac{347}{21} \sigma_{G_3} - \frac{389}{21} \sigma_{G_4} + \frac{19}{35} \sigma_{G_5} - \frac{2}{7} \sigma_{G_6}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (31) \quad G_1 &= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \swarrow \\ \textcircled{2} \leftarrow \textcircled{1} \end{array} & G_2 &= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \swarrow \\ \textcircled{2} - \textcircled{1} \end{array} & G_3 &= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \swarrow \\ \textcircled{2} \leftarrow \textcircled{1} \end{array} \\
 (32) \quad G_4 &= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ \textcircled{2} - \bullet - \textcircled{1} \end{array} & G_5 &= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{1} \end{array} & G_6 &= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \swarrow \\ \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{1} - \textcircled{1} \end{array}
 \end{aligned}$$

The coefficients above were found using a Maple program which implemented the algorithm described in the previous section. Specifically, this program calculated the 7 by 10 matrix of intersection numbers below

	ψ_1^2	σ_{G_1}	σ_{G_2}	σ_{G_3}	σ_{G_4}	σ_{G_5}	σ_{G_6}	$\psi_1 \kappa_1$	κ_2	κ_1^2
ψ_1^2	$\frac{31}{70}$	$\frac{21}{10}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	0	0	1	0	$\frac{31}{7}$	$\frac{31}{7}$	$\frac{248}{7}$
σ_{G_1}	$\frac{21}{10}$	$\frac{13}{10}$	$\frac{-1}{10}$	0	1	-1	0	$\frac{21}{5}$	$\frac{14}{5}$	$\frac{91}{5}$
σ_{G_2}	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{-1}{10}$	$\frac{-11}{10}$	1	0	-3	0	$\frac{42}{5}$	$\frac{14}{5}$	$\frac{91}{5}$
σ_{G_3}	0	0	1	$\frac{-7}{10}$	$\frac{-7}{10}$	2	-1	$\frac{14}{5}$	0	$\frac{21}{5}$
σ_{G_4}	0	1	0	$\frac{-7}{10}$	0	1	-1	$\frac{21}{10}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{7}{2}$
σ_{G_5}	1	-1	-3	2	1	0	0	3	1	5
σ_{G_6}	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	2	0	2

where each entry is 13824 times the intersection number of the classes indexing the rows and columns.

The relations above span its 3-dimension kernel. Because of these three relations, we may also disregard graphs in $\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{ct}}$ whose genus 3 vertices are decorated with $\kappa_1 \psi_1$, κ_2 , and κ_1^2 .

$$(33) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \kappa_1 & \kappa_2 & \kappa_1^2 \\ \textcircled{3} \leftarrow \textcircled{1} & \textcircled{3} - \textcircled{1} & \textcircled{3} - \textcircled{1} \end{array}$$

The remaining 21 decorated dual graphs are listed below.

degree 0: $\textcircled{4}$

degree 1: $\textcircled{4}^{\kappa_1}$ $\textcircled{3}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{2}$

degree 2: $\textcircled{4}^{\kappa_2}$ $\textcircled{3}^{\kappa_1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{3}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{2}\leftarrow\textcircled{2}$ $\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}$

degree 3: $\textcircled{3}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{2}\leftrightarrow\textcircled{2}$ $\textcircled{2}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}$
 $\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$

degree 4: $\textcircled{2}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$ $\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$

degree 5: $\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}$

Note that there are six decorated strata classes in degree 2, and seven in degree 3. With no other obvious dependencies among these classes, the conjectured Gorenstein condition for $R^*(\mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}})$ suggests the existence of a new degree 3 relation ([P]).

Proposition 2. *The following new relation holds among classes in $H_{12}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_4)$.*

$$\begin{aligned}
 (34) \quad 0 = & 7[\textcircled{3}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}] - 20[\textcircled{2}\leftrightarrow\textcircled{2}] - \frac{35}{3}[\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}] + \frac{106}{3}[\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{2}] \\
 & - \frac{22}{3}\left[\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{2}\right] + \frac{34}{5}\left[\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}\right] - 8[\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}] + \frac{7}{12}[\textcircled{3}] \\
 & - \frac{1}{36}[\textcircled{2}] + \frac{7}{24}[\textcircled{3}^{\kappa_1}] - \frac{7}{4}[\textcircled{3}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}] - \frac{5}{6}[\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}] - \frac{19}{72}[\textcircled{2}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}] \\
 & - \frac{65}{18}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] + \frac{73}{36}[\textcircled{2}\leftarrow\textcircled{1}] + \frac{19}{34560}[\textcircled{1}] - \frac{17}{1728}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] \\
 & + \frac{1}{36}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] - \frac{71}{864}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] - \frac{37}{864}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] + \frac{11}{288}[\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}] \\
 & + \frac{11}{72}[\textcircled{1}\textcircled{1}] - \frac{7}{360}[\textcircled{1}\textcircled{1}] - \frac{2}{15}[\textcircled{1}\textcircled{1}] + \frac{5}{18}[\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] \\
 & + \frac{1}{8}[\textcircled{2}-\textcircled{1}\textcircled{1}] + \frac{7}{36}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] - \frac{1}{18}[\textcircled{2}\textcircled{1}] - \frac{4}{3}\left[\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}\right] \\
 & + \frac{53}{60}\left[\textcircled{1}\rightarrow\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}\right] - \frac{4}{5}[\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}] + \frac{83}{30}[\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}-\textcircled{1}] + \frac{373}{120}[\textcircled{1}\textcircled{1}],
 \end{aligned}$$

where $[G]$ denotes the tautological class σ_G .

This relation was shown to hold in ring $R^3(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_4)$ by Faber and Pandharipande, by a different method. Their work is not yet published.

Proof. The cohomology of \mathcal{M}_4 and $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_4$, calculated respectively by Tommasi and Bergström-Tommasi in [T] and [BT], is known to be isomorphic to cohomology with compact support. Dual to the short exact sequence

$$(35) \quad 0 \rightarrow H_c^{12}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_4) \rightarrow H_c^{12}(\partial\mathcal{M}_4) \rightarrow H_c^{13}(\mathcal{M}_4) \rightarrow 0$$

is a sequence of Borel-Moore homology groups

$$(36) \quad 0 \rightarrow H_{13}^{BM}(\mathcal{M}_4) \rightarrow H_{12}^{BM}(\partial\mathcal{M}_4) \rightarrow H_{12}^{BM}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_4) \rightarrow 0.$$

The first term $H_{13}^{BM}(\mathcal{M}_4)$ is isomorphic to $H^5(\mathcal{M}_4)$ and is known to be 1-dimensional ([T]). The second term is isomorphic to $H_{12}(\partial\mathcal{M}_4)$ and is spanned by the 33 terms in equation (34). The kernel of the map ϕ in the equivalent sequence

$$(37) \quad 0 \rightarrow H^5(\mathcal{M}_4) \rightarrow H_{12}(\partial\mathcal{M}_4) \xrightarrow{\phi} H_{12}(\overline{\mathcal{M}}_4) \rightarrow 0$$

is exactly the relation given above. □

A similar analysis can be done for $R^3(\mathcal{M}_5^{\text{ct}})$. There are 31 graphs in $\Sigma^3(\mathcal{M}_5^{\text{ct}})$, eleven of which can be eliminated using relations from genus 2, 3, and 4. The rank of the intersection pairing $R^3 \times R^4$ on the remaining 20 graphs is only 19, which suggests a new codimension 3 relation in $\mathcal{M}_5^{\text{ct}}$.

Conjecture 1. *The following relation holds in $R^3(\mathcal{M}_5^{\text{ct}})$.*

$$(38) \quad 0 = \left[\begin{array}{c} \kappa_2 \\ \text{graph 1} \end{array} \right] - 7 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 2} \end{array} \right] - 30 \left[\begin{array}{c} \kappa_1 \\ \text{graph 3} \end{array} \right] + 102 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 4} \end{array} \right] + 48 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 5} \end{array} \right] \\ - 4 \left[\begin{array}{c} \kappa_1 \\ \text{graph 6} \end{array} \right] + 19 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 7} \end{array} \right] + 17 \left[\begin{array}{c} \kappa_1 \\ \text{graph 8} \end{array} \right] - 84 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 9} \end{array} \right] \\ + \frac{507}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 10} \end{array} \right] - 51 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 11} \end{array} \right] + \frac{160}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 12} \end{array} \right] + \frac{190}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 13} \end{array} \right] \\ + \frac{63}{5} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 14} \end{array} \right] - \frac{400}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 15} \end{array} \right] + \frac{44}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 16} \end{array} \right] - \frac{4}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 17} \end{array} \right] \\ - \frac{141}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 18} \end{array} \right] + \frac{23}{7} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{graph 19} \end{array} \right]$$

5. GORENSTEIN QUOTIENTS OF TAUTOLOGICAL RINGS

Below we display the ranks of the intersection pairing on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$, $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$, and $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$, respectively. These were calculated using Proposition 1, where Φ is restricted to the finite set of graphs satisfying inequality (22).

Rank of the intersection pairing on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{g,n}$

(g, n)	CODIMENSION									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$(0, 3)$	1									
$(0, 4)$	1	1								
$(0, 5)$	1	5	1							
$(0, 6)$	1	16	16	1						
$(0, 7)$	1	42	127	42	1					
$(1, 1)$	1	1								
$(1, 2)$	1	2	1							
$(1, 3)$	1	5	5	1						
$(1, 4)$	1	12	23	12	1					
$(1, 5)$	1	27	102	102	27	1				
$(2, 0)$	1	2	2	1						
$(2, 1)$	1	3	5	3	1					
$(2, 2)$	1	6	14	14	6	1				
$(2, 3)$	1	12	44	67	44	12	1			
$(2, 4)$	1	24	144	333	333	144	24	1		
$(3, 0)$	1	3	7	10	7	3	1			
$(3, 1)$	1	5	16	29	29	16	5	1		
$(3, 2)$	1	9	42	104	142	104	42	9	1	
$(4, 0)$	1	4	13	32	50	50	32	13	4	1

Rank of the intersection pairing on $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{ct}}$

(g, n)	CODIMENSION							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(1, 1)	1							
(1, 2)	1	1						
(1, 3)	1	4	1					
(1, 4)	1	11	11	1				
(1, 5)	1	26	71	26	1			
(1, 6)	1	57	348	348	57	1		
(2, 0)	1	1						
(2, 1)	1	2	1					
(2, 2)	1	5	5	1				
(2, 3)	1	11	24	11	1			
(2, 4)	1	23	101	101	23	1		
(2, 5)	1	47	384	769	384	47	1	
(3, 0)	1	2	2	1				
(3, 1)	1	4	7	4	1			
(3, 2)	1	8	24	24	8	1		
(3, 3)	1	16	82	144	82	16	1	
(3, 4)	1	32	274	813	813	274	32	1
(4, 0)	1	3	6	6	3	1		
(4, 1)	1	5	17	25	17	5	1	
(4, 2)	1	10	51	120	120	51	10	1
(5, 0)	1	3	10	19	19	10	3	1

Rank of the intersection pairing on $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}^{\text{rt}}$

(g, n)	DEGREE								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(2, 0)	1								
(2, 1)	1	1							
(2, 2)	1	3	1						
(2, 3)	1	7	7	1					
(2, 4)	1	15	35	15	1				
(2, 5)	1	31	147	147	31	1			
(2, 6)	1	63	556	1126	556	63	1		
(3, 0)	1	1							
(3, 1)	1	2	1						
(3, 2)	1	4	4	1					
(3, 3)	1	8	15	8	1				
(3, 4)	1	16	54	54	16	1			
(3, 5)	1	32	188	333	188	32	1		
(4, 0)	1	1	1						
(4, 1)	1	2	2	1					
(4, 2)	1	4	6	4	1				
(4, 3)	1	8	19	19	8	1			
(4, 4)	1	16	61	95	61	16	1		
(4, 5)	1	32	199	470	470	199	32	1	
(5, 0)	1	1	1	1					
(5, 1)	1	2	3	2	1				
(5, 2)	1	4	8	8	4	1			
(5, 3)	1	8	22	33	22	8	1		
(5, 4)	1	16	65	136	136	65	16	1	
(5, 5)	1	32	204	577	852	577	204	32	1
(6, 0)	1	1	2	1	1				
(6, 1)	1	2	4	4	2	1			
(6, 2)	1	4	9	13	9	4	1		
(6, 3)	1	8	23	44	44	23	8	1	
(6, 4)	1	16	66	159	226	159	66	16	1
(7, 0)	1	1	2	2	1	1			
(7, 1)	1	2	4	5	4	2	1		

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